

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of creating a custom database in a data store connected to a computer,
2 the method comprising:
3 receiving a system description of a structure of the custom database to be created;
4 generating the structure for the custom database based on the system description; and
5 generating a search engine based on the system description, wherein the search engine
6 stores and locates data in the custom database.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a user interface to access
2 the custom database.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the system description and
2 generating a new structure and search engine that are transparent.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the system description defines a mapping of one
2 or more abstract objects to a physical representation in the structure of the custom database.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the structure stores data to form a relational
2 database.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the system description comprises a markup
2 language file.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the markup language file comprises an extensible
2 markup language (XML) document.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the XML document is created using a text editor.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the XML file is created using a graphical user
2 interface.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the search engine locates data within the custom
2 database.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the search engine comprises a text search engine.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the search engine comprises a high level
2 language.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the high level language comprises Java.

1 14. An apparatus for creating a custom database comprising:
2 a computer having a data store connected thereto, wherein the data store stores
3 data; and
4 one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving a
5 system description of a structure of the custom database to be created, for generating the
6 structure for the custom database based on the system description, and for generating a search
7 engine based on the system description, wherein the search engine stores and locates data in the
8 custom database.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising generating a user interface to
2 access the custom database.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising modifying the system description
2 and generating a new structure and search engine that are transparent.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the system description defines a mapping of
2 one or more abstract objects to a physical representation in the structure of the custom database.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the structure stores data to form a relational
2 database.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the system description comprises a markup
2 language file.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the markup language file comprises an
2 extensible markup language (XML) document.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the XML document is created using a text
2 editor.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the XML document is created using a
2 graphical user interface.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the search engine locates data within the
2 custom database.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the search engine comprises a text search
2 engine.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the search engine comprises a high level
2 language.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the high level language comprises Java.

1 27. An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by
2 a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform steps
3 for creating a custom database, comprising:
4 receiving a system description of a structure of the custom database to be created;

5 generating the structure for the custom database based on the system description; and
6 generating a search engine based on the system description, wherein the search engine
7 stores and locates data in the custom database.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, further comprising generating a user
2 interface to access the custom database.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, further comprising modifying the system
2 description and generating a new structure and search engine that are transparent.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the system description defines
2 a mapping of one or more abstract objects to a physical representation in the structure of the
3 custom database.

1 31. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the structure stores data to form
2 a relational database.

1 32. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the system description comprises
2 a markup language file.

1 33. The article of manufacture of claim 32, wherein the markup language file
2 comprises an extensible markup language (XML) document.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein the XML document is created
2 using a text editor.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein the XML file is created using a
2 graphical user interface.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the search engine locates data

2 within the custom database.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the search engine comprises a
2 text search engine.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the search engine comprises a
2 high level language.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the high level language
2 comprises Java.